United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNAMIR mandate until 9 December; endorses immediate deployment of two additional battalions, equiping of Ghanaian contingent; demands immediate cease-fire, end of systematic killings.

+ Secretary-General in report to Security Council recommends UNFICYP mandate be extended until 31 December; says Force's continued presence on Cyprus indispensable for achieving Council's objectives.

+ Secretary-General addresses special International Labour Conference in Geneva marking ILO's seventy-fifth anniversary; says ILO has helped promote rights of workers around the world.

+ The Government of Yemen announces cease-fire effective 6 p.m. local time today, following request by Special Envoy Brahimi.

+ UNAMIR oversees fourth round of talks between Rwandan Government and RPF; accusations of massacres made by both parties.

+ Industrialized countries must bear costs of globalization World Hearings on Development told; prematurely established democracies often powerless to maintain social stability and restructure their economies

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The Security Council last night extended the expanded mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), originally scheduled to expire on 29 July, until 9 December 1994. It also endorsed the immediate deployment of two additional battalions, along with the equipping and redeployment of a previously committed Ghanaian battalion. In unanimously adopting resolution 925 (1994), the Council endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals to flexibly implement all three phases of the expanded mandate it had approved in a previous resolution last month. The first phase called for bringing to full strength and deploying a mechanized infantry battalion. The second and third phases called for the deployment of two additional battalions.

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In addition to endorsing the deployment of the first two phases, the Council approved continued preparations for deployment of the two battalions envisaged for phase three. It also urged Member States to respond promptly to the Secretary-General's request for resources, including logistical support capability. The Council reaffirmed that UNAMIR would continue to act as intermediary between the parties in seeking a cease-fire and contribute to the security of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk. It would also establish secure humanitarian areas, and provide security and support for humanitarian operations.

The Council demanded that the parties in Rwanda agree to a cease-fire, end the systematic killings, and make serious efforts to achieve a political reconciliation. It also demanded that they stop inciting violence and ethnic hatred, respect the United Nations and other organizations and refrain from intimidating peace-keeping or humanitarian personnel. It asked the Secretary-General to report to the Council on UNAMIR's progress no later than 9 August and 9 October.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) be extended until 31 December 1994. In a report to the Security Council dated 7 June, the Secretary-General said that the Force's continued presence on the island was indispensable to achieve the Security Council's objectives. He noted that the extension would be sixteen days longer than the normal six month renewal period, in order to facilitate administrative and financial procedures at UNFICYP.

The Secretary-General said he regretted that because of the position taken by the Turkish Forces, discussions between UNFICYP and the respective military authorities on further unmanning of the buffer zone, and the use of weapons there had not taken place. For the same reason, there were still difficulties regarding access to the fenced area of Varosha. The Secretary-General said he was gravely concerned with the lack of progress in those areas, and in efforts to reduce the number of troops on the island. He was also concerned at the recent lack of political will shown towards reaching an agreement on the implementation of the package of confidence-building measures.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today attended a special session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Secretary-General told delegates that the world was experiencing an unprecedented social crisis with poverty and unemployment growing. For 75 years the ILO had promoted the rights of workers around the world. It had helped establish international labour standards in areas such as freedom of association, pay, working hours and conditions, compensation for job-related accidents, social security, paid leave and industrial safety.

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The Secretary-General said he believed the development imperative was as much a United Nations priority as the imperative of peace. That is why he had begun an indepth reform of the United Nations in the economic fields as soon as he took office. Peace and development were not separate or conflicting goals, they were inseparable, he stressed.

Earlier today, the Secretary-General met with Yves Berthelot, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Later, he received representives of the Arab Labour Bureau, including Labour Ministers from Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Tunisia and Palestine. Workers' representatives from Jordan, Kuwait and the Arab Organization for Employees also called on the Secretary-General.

The Secetary-General attended a luncheon hosted by the Director-General of the ILO and later met with the Representative of Chile, Juan Somavia, who is also President of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Social Development. Yesterday, the Secretary-General was briefed by the Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), James Gustave Speth, on the UNDP Executive Board's annual session. They also discussed the coordination of aid to the occupied territories.

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The Government of Yemen has announced a cease-fire effective at 6 p.m. local time today, following a request by Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi who is leading a United Nations fact-finding mission to Yemen. Earlier today, Mr. Brahimi met President Ali Abdallah Saleh and Foreign Minister Ahmed Basendwah. Before meeting with the President, Mr. Brahimi conferred with a group of six Government Ministers and they had wide ranging discussions on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 924 (1994), which calls for an immediate cease-fire in Yemen.

Mr. Brahimi was scheduled to meet this afternoon with members of the governing coalition and parliamentarians, and is expected to leave Sana'a tomorrow to continue his fact-finding mission and contact other concerned parties.

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A fourth round of talks was held today between the Rwandan Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) at United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) headquarters in Kigali. A spokesman for the Organization said the talks lasted for four hours in a "rather tense atmosphere". Discussions centered on charges and counter-charges of massacres, with the RPF blaming the Government militia for the killing of over 60 people earlier this week in a suburb southwest of Kigali. Another round of talks has been scheduled for Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, RPF radio reported a massacre was carried out by Patriotic Front elements in a refugee camp in the town of Kabgaye. The Archbishop of Kigali, the Bishop of Kabgaye and ten priests were killed, the spokesman

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said. According to the radio reports, the RPF said those responsible for the unauthorized attack would be brought to trial. Earlier today, the United Nations headquarters in Kigali sustained a direct hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

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Industrialized countries must bear the costs of globalization, the World Hearings on Development was told yesterday. The Minister of Economic Planning of the Republic of Korea told delegates the relationship between third world prosperity and global stability was critical. However, so far the globalization had failed to benefit countries in transition to a market economy. It was often necessary for those countries to maintain their non-democratic Governments in order to achieve an effective transition to a market economy, he said. Prematurely established democratic Governments were often powerless to maintain social stability and restructure their economic systems. Capitalist countries must not create the illusion that the overhaul of institutions would automatically bring about a free and competitive economy, he added.

Paul Kennedy, Director of International Security Studies at Yale University, said the forces for change were too intense and swift to overcome. The United Nations had a critical role to play in the challenge to find peaceful ways for achieving change. Unless a decent and responsible agenda for development was put in place, there would be even greater turbulance, he added.

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